

PATENT

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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Applicants : Michael Knaupp et al.  
Application No. : 09/940,689  
Filed : August 27, 2001  
For : APPARATUS FOR GENERATING AND MANIPULATING A  
HIGH-PRESSURE FLUID JET

Examiner : Jason D. Prone  
Art Unit : 3724  
Docket No. : 340058.534  
Date : January 24, 2005

Mail Stop RCE  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

Commissioner for Patents:

Applicants thank the Examiner for allowing claims 13-22 and 24-43 in the present application. Applicants wish to comment, however, on the Statement of Reasons for Allowance. More particularly, applicants wish to clarify that the quick release mechanism is not required for the patentability of the claims, and in fact, is only recited in dependent claims 3 and 14. The subject matter of the remaining allowed claims is not dependent on the inclusion of a quick release mechanism. For example, the arrangement wherein the clamp holds the cutting head assembly when the nozzle body assembly is separated from the cutting head assembly, and the arrangement wherein the cutting head assembly is held in place when the nozzle body assembly is separated from the cutting head to allow access to the orifice without removing the cutting head assembly from the clamp, are independently patentable. Applicants therefore respectfully

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submit that the subject matter of each allowed claim defines patentable subject matter, some of which include a quick release mechanism, and some of which do not.

Respectfully submitted,

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